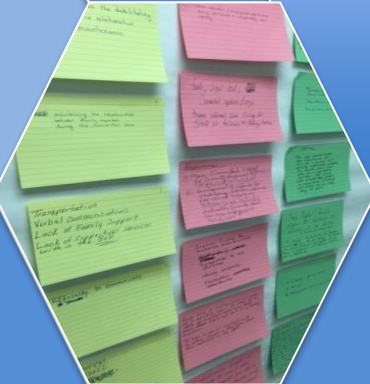
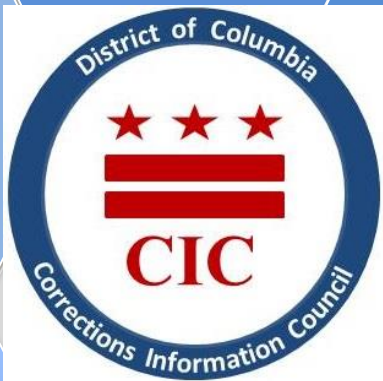


Corrections Information Council

2016

Annual Report



Introduction

Fiscal Year 2016 was the first year of Corrections Information Council's (CIC's) fiscal and operational independence. For FY 2016, the budget was increased to accommodate additional staff, including an executive director and two additional program analysts. Staff doubled from 3 to 6 to allow the CIC to increase operations, while reducing the backlog in reports from inspections previously conducted in fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

Program Analyst Cara Compagni was the first and – for fiscal years 2013-2014 – only staff person for the CIC. The CIC is grateful for all of Cara's hard work and dedication to the agency during her tenure from August 2012 to March 2016. The CIC is also indebted to Board Member Katharine Huffman, who, for much of calendar year 2015, was the sole CIC board member. Phylisa Carter, though not sworn in until December 2015, volunteered in many inspections prior to her confirmation. Thanks also to volunteer D. Yvonne Rivers, who participated in CIC events during FY 2016.

Some of the accomplishments of the CIC in FY 2016 include:

- Eight facility inspections,
- Responses to correspondence from over 98 incarcerated persons,
- Ten inspection reports published,
- Two "CIC Pop-Up Think Tanks", and
- "Pens to Paper to Persons in Prison" writing event.

The CIC also thanks the support and collaboration of those incarcerated willing to communicate with the CIC, community members, service providers, government agencies, corrections agencies, and decision-makers – all who are affected by and affect the lives of incarcerated DC residents. The CIC hopes that the information it provides is helpful to all of you.

Michelle Bonner
Executive Director

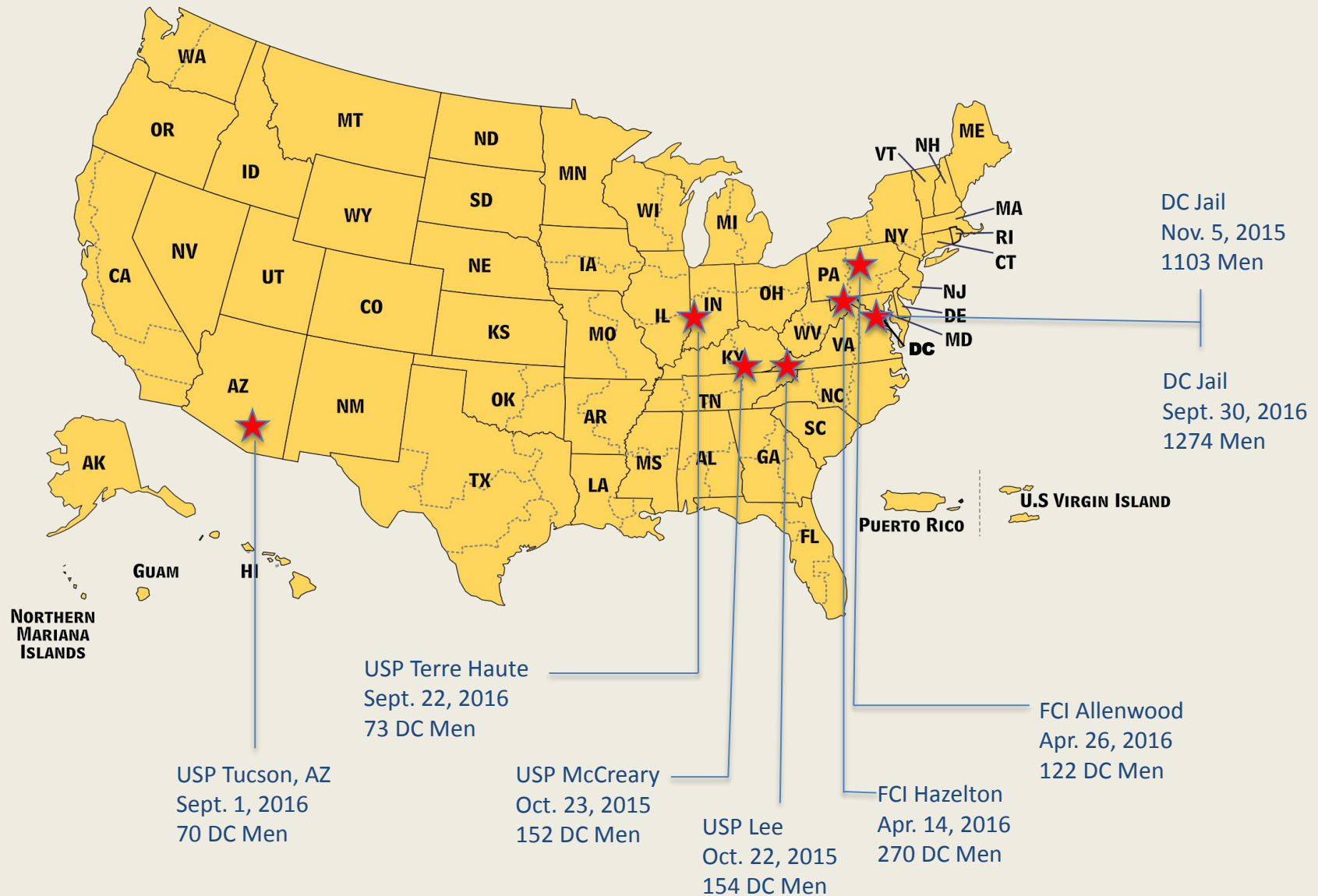




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Facilities Inspected by the CIC in Fiscal Year 2016



DC Department Of Corrections

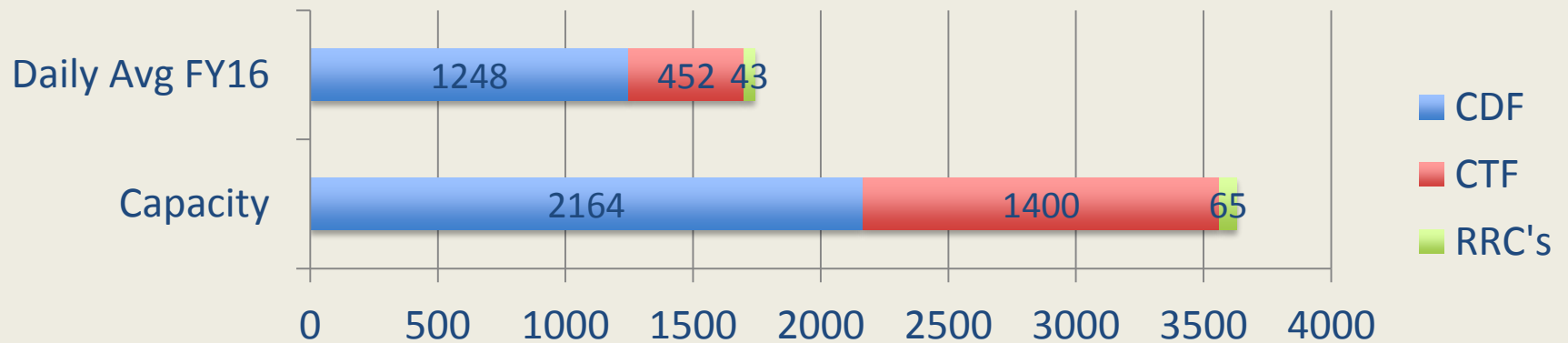
Overview and Observations



Overview of Population at DC Department of Corrections

In FY 2016, the DC Department of Corrections (“DOC”) consisted of:

- Central Detention Facility (“CDF” or “DC Jail”) – adult men only;
- Correctional Treatment Facility (“CTF”), operated by the Corrections Corporation of America (“CCA”) – women, adult men, DOC-operated unit for juveniles charged as adults;
- Central Cellblock - the holding cells for DC Superior Court;
- Contracted beds in residential reentry centers (“RRCs” or “halfway houses”).



According to DOC “Facts and Figures: October 2016,” in FY 2016, the average daily male population in DOC custody was 1,608; the average DOC female population was 115, and the average DOC juvenile population was 24. In FY 2016, the total average daily population increased by 89 inmates, from 1,658 in FY 2015 to 1,747 in FY 2016. This is 48% of operating capacity of 3629 beds in DOC.

Additionally, although Black residents comprise 48.3% of the overall DC population, they made up 89.2% of the DOC inmate population in FY 2016.

DC Department of Corrections – Observations

The CIC visited Central Detention Facility (CDF, aka “DC Jail”) on Nov. 5, 2015 and Sept. 30, 2016. In May 2016, the CIC also visited a few units in the Correctional Treatment Facility (“CTF”), then operated by Corrections Corporation of America (“CCA”, now Core Civic), in response to complaints from community service providers. For a fuller report on CIC observations from CDF visits, view CIC 2016 DOC Report.

Promising Practices

Mental Health Step-Down Unit – The CIC toured this new unit in DC Jail, months after it opened in May 2016. The unit provides treatment and transition services as one moves from the Acute Mental Health Unit to general population or the community. The jail unit has been modified to have more open space for groups and a more calming atmosphere than the stark, single-celled acute treatment unit.

Work Readiness Unit – Opened in July 2015, the Work Readiness Unit is an extension of the Project Empowerment Program offered by the Department of Employment Services (“DOES”). Staff from DOES offer job readiness courses in the DC Jail to men prior to their release; and men can continue the stipend job placement program in the community. As of FY 2016 this program is only offered to men, with only packets and limited instruction offered to women at CTF.



Heat Wave 2016

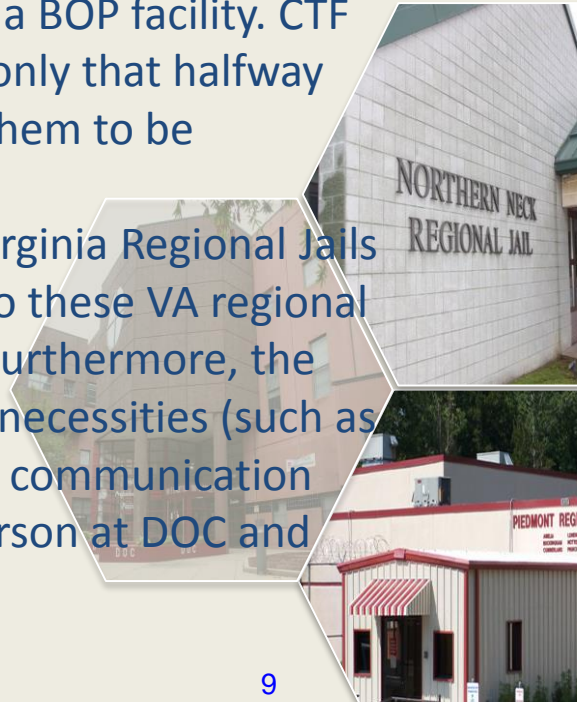
The biggest issue for DOC by far in FY 2016 was the malfunctioning air conditioning at the DC Jail during intense summer heat. An elderly man died at the DC Jail during this heat wave, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined his death not to be heat related. However, after his death, there was a frenzy of concern and activity surrounding the temperature and air conditioning in the facility. Persons deemed medically vulnerable to extreme heat were moved from DC Jail to CTF, and entire units were shut down, while DOC made extensive repairs to the DC Jail's HVAC system. At one point, some men who were still held at the DC Jail refused to return to their hot cells, and there were reports of use of force and lockdown conditions in response. The agency regularly reported temperatures from units being from mid-70's to low 80's, and incarcerated DC men reported seeing thermometer readings within individual cells exceeding 100 degrees. Although the DC Jail is still in use, DOC has performed much-needed repairs that have addressed the problem for now.



BOP Custody in DOC

Through an intergovernmental agreement (“IGA”) between DOC and BOP, the Bureau has agreed to keep up to 200 incarcerated DC persons under BOP custody at CTF. Per agreement these are people who have nine months or less of a felony sentence or prison time due to violation of supervised release. However:

- Despite the IGA for up to 200 beds, there has consistently been only approximately 60 beds used under this agreement during the fiscal year.
- On the BOP unit itself in CTF, there is little programming, including minimal reentry programming, despite persons being held in DC prior to release to facilitate reentry.
- Those in BOP custody in CTF have complained that they are unable to apply for and obtain halfway house time, as they would if they were in a BOP facility. CTF staff who work in the BOP unit did not refute this, indicating only that halfway house request packets are not processed by BOP in time for them to be transferred to the halfway house by their release date.
- Some BOP custody inmates have been moved from DOC to Virginia Regional Jails by the US Marshal Service (“USMS”). When they are moved to these VA regional jails, there is no known way to ascertain their whereabouts. Furthermore, the CIC has received complaints of substandard conditions, basic necessities (such as underwear, toiletries, food), lack of programming, and lack of communication with home. The USMS indicates that it costs \$133/day per person at DOC and \$55/day at VA regional jails.





Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)

Overview and Observations

Overview of Incarcerated DC Persons in BOP Facilities

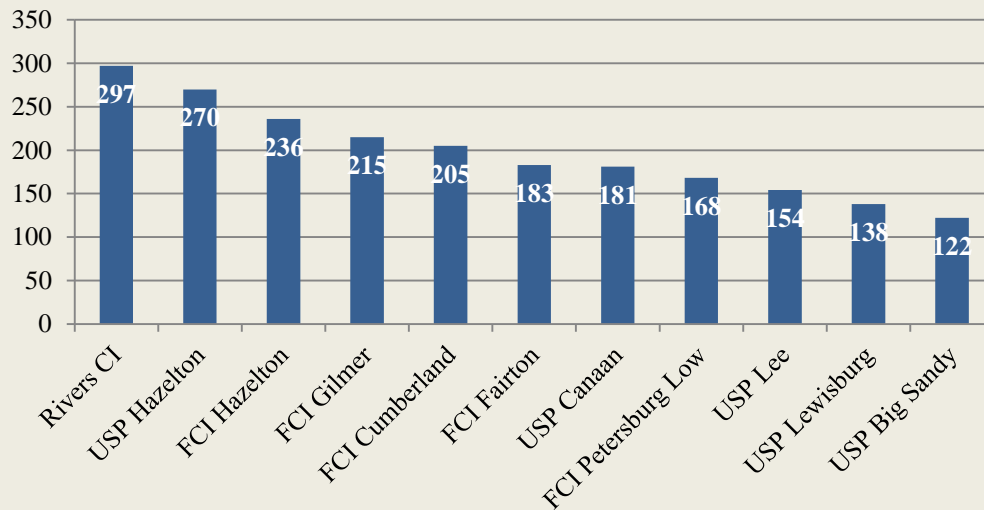
According to Sept. 30, 2016, BOP census data, there were 4,914 DC residents in BOP custody, including 4,721 men and 193 women. Out of the 4,914 DC inmates, 258 men and 51 women were in transit to a facility. DC inmates are incarcerated in 116 different BOP facilities across 33 states, including the District of Columbia.

The BOP classifies facilities by name according to their designated security levels.

- Community Corrections Management Offices (CCMs) for halfway houses and non-federal correctional facilities housing BOP custody persons.
- Federal Prison Camps (FPCs) are minimum security facilities.
- Federal Correctional Institutions (FCIs Low) are low security facilities.
- FCIs Medium or as USPs designated to house medium security inmates.
- United States Penitentiaries (USPs) are high security facilities.
- Administrative facilities are institutions with special missions, including Federal Medical Centers (“FMCs”) or special security facilities, including USP Florence ADX and USP Lewisburg Special Management Unit.

Type of Facility	Minimum Security	Low Security	Medium Security	High Security	Administrative Maximum	Medical Center	Contract Prisons	DC Area	Transit Status	CCM
Number of DC Inmates	3	195	1,898	1,468	281	109	297	249	309	105

Facilities Incarcerating the Largest Number of DC Inmates

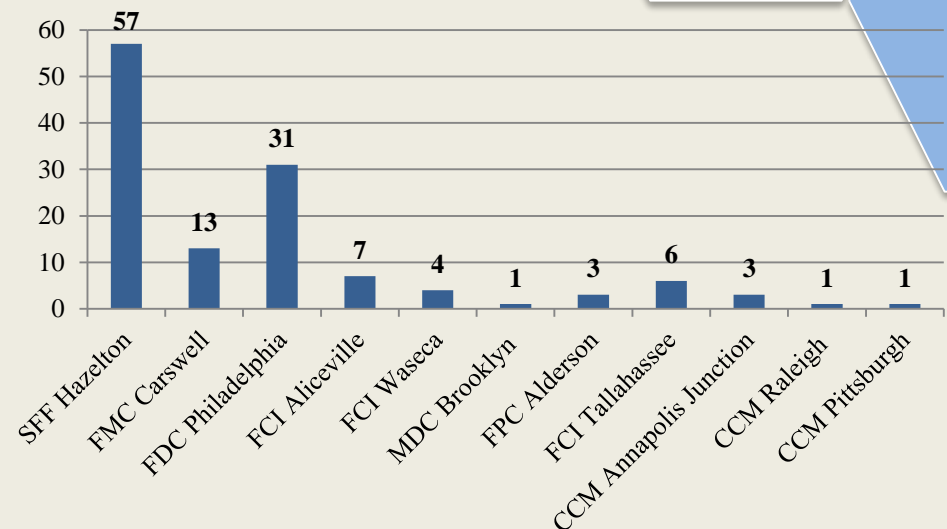


The largest numbers of DC men were incarcerated at eleven facilities in seven states, as provided in this chart.

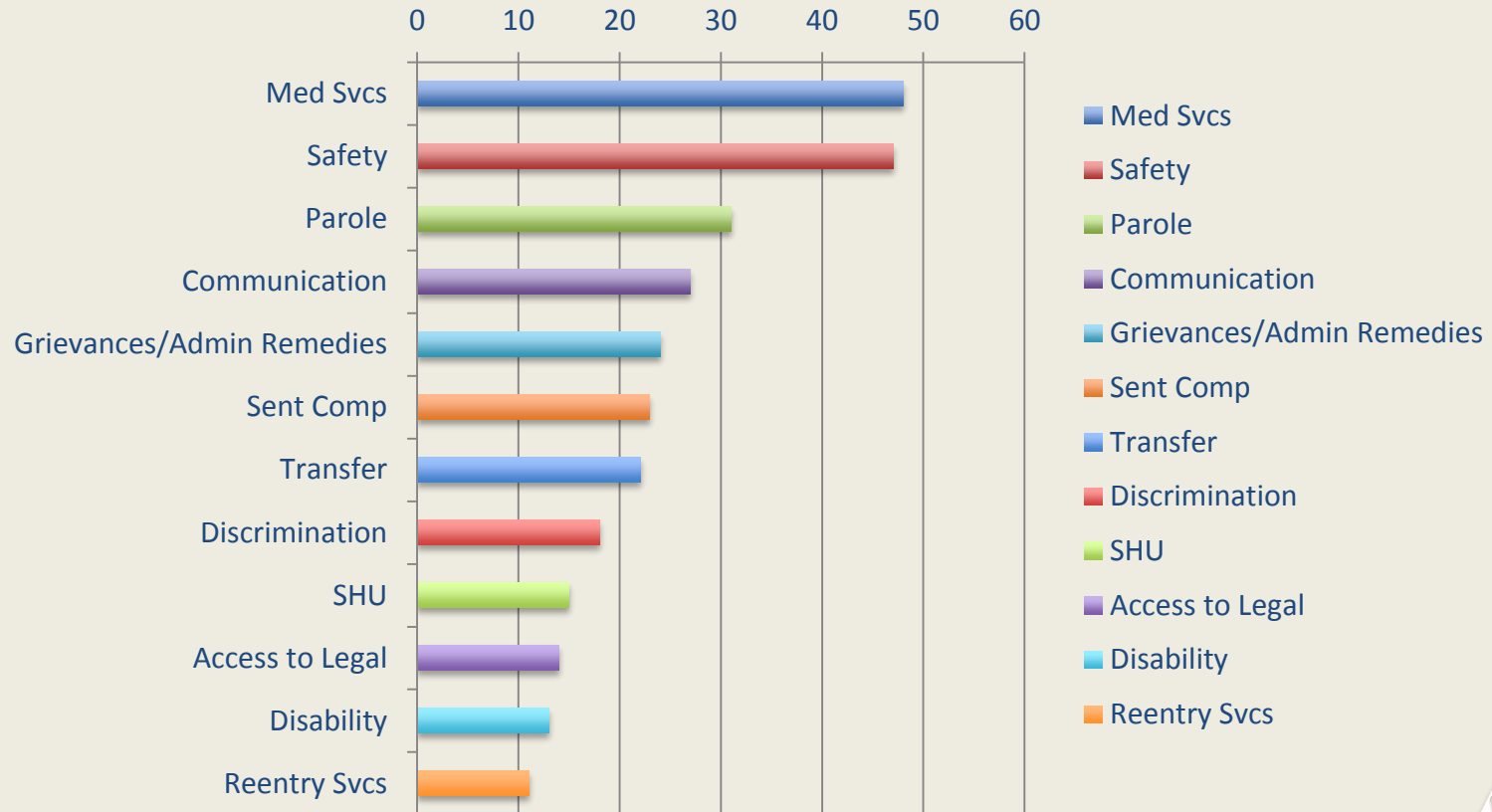


Incarcerated DC Women in BOP Custody

In September 2016, there were 193 DC women in BOP custody in DC and 11 other states, with one BOP facility incarcerating women in each of the 11 states. An additional 51 women were in transit. The largest number of female DC inmates are housed at Secure Female Facility (SFF) Hazelton in Preston County, West Virginia, approximately 193 miles from DC.



Concerns Expressed Through Correspondence



In fiscal year 2016, outside of inspection interviews, the CIC received over 200 inmate concerns from letters, emails and phone calls from at least 98 incarcerated DC persons and their loved ones. The chart above presents a breakdown of the types of concerns received by the CIC. The top three distinct issues were medical services, institutional safety, and parole-related issues.



Expressed Concerns Through Correspondence

Medical Services

The CIC received many concerns from DC inmates in the BOP regarding the quality of and access to medical services. Specifically, individuals reported changes in medication prescriptions without being seen by a medical professional and denials of accommodations for medical purposes. Concerns came from various facilities, including USP Allenwood, FMC Carswell, USP Florence ADMAX, and SFF Hazelton.

Institutional Safety

The CIC received concerns regarding safety and instances of retaliation. Specifically, individuals reported retaliation after submitting complaints through the BOP's Administrative Remedy Process. Two individuals also reported receiving threats from BOP staff after communicating with the CIC. Concerns came from various facilities, including USP Allenwood, FMC Carswell, SFF Hazelton, USP Lewisburg, USP McCreary, and Rivers Correctional Institution.

Parole Concerns

The CIC received multiple complaints from parole-eligible individuals regarding unjustified denials of parole by the USPC. Specifically, individuals reported being denied parole despite having no incident reports while incarcerated and participating in the programming provided by the BOP.



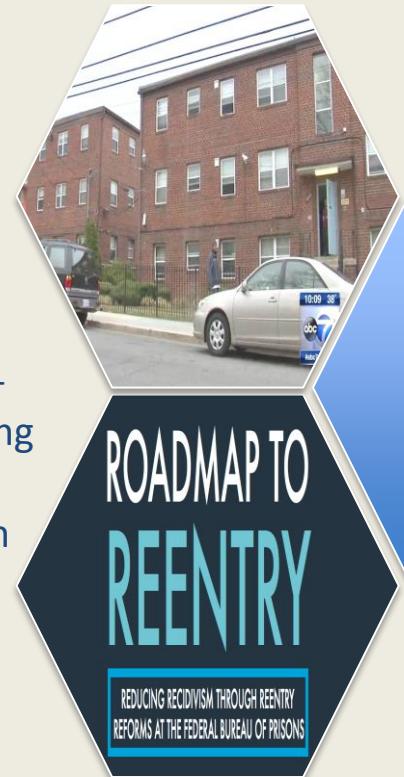
Other BOP Issues

RFP for Male Halfway House

Contracts between BOP and Hope Village, the largest BOP-contracted residential reentry center (“RRC” or “halfway house”), expire in 2016 and 2017. Therefore, BOP issued a request for proposals (“RFP”) for a halfway house for up to 300 beds and 150 home confinement spaces. The CIC learned that there were at least four proposals, including one from the current owner of Hope Village. The CIC wrote a public letter to the BOP Contracting Officer, briefly presenting each one, summarizing current complaints about Hope Village, and presenting promising practices in halfway houses elsewhere. To date, BOP has not awarded a new halfway house contract, and it has extended its contract with Hope Village in the meantime.

Lack of Reentry Preparation Program Curriculum

The CIC has observed that each facility inspected delivers its Reentry Preparation Program (“RPP”) differently; and information provided is haphazardly based on staff or inmate instructors present at the facility at the time. The CIC has repeatedly recommended that the BOP develop an agency-wide baseline RPP curriculum. The CIC has joined reentry advocates in meeting with BOP Reentry Services staff and encouraging that a curriculum be established. The BOP has indicated that it is committed to developing such an RPP curriculum.



Executive Order to Limit Use of Restrictive Housing

On January 26, 2016, President Obama issued an Executive Order banning the use of restrictive housing against juveniles in federal custody and limiting its use against adults. In addition to the juvenile ban, the Order calls for reducing the use of restrictive housing from a year to 90 days for high level offenses; diverting mentally ill from restrictive housing; reducing length of Special Management Unit from 24 months to 12 months; and increasing out-of-cell time for those in restrictive housing.

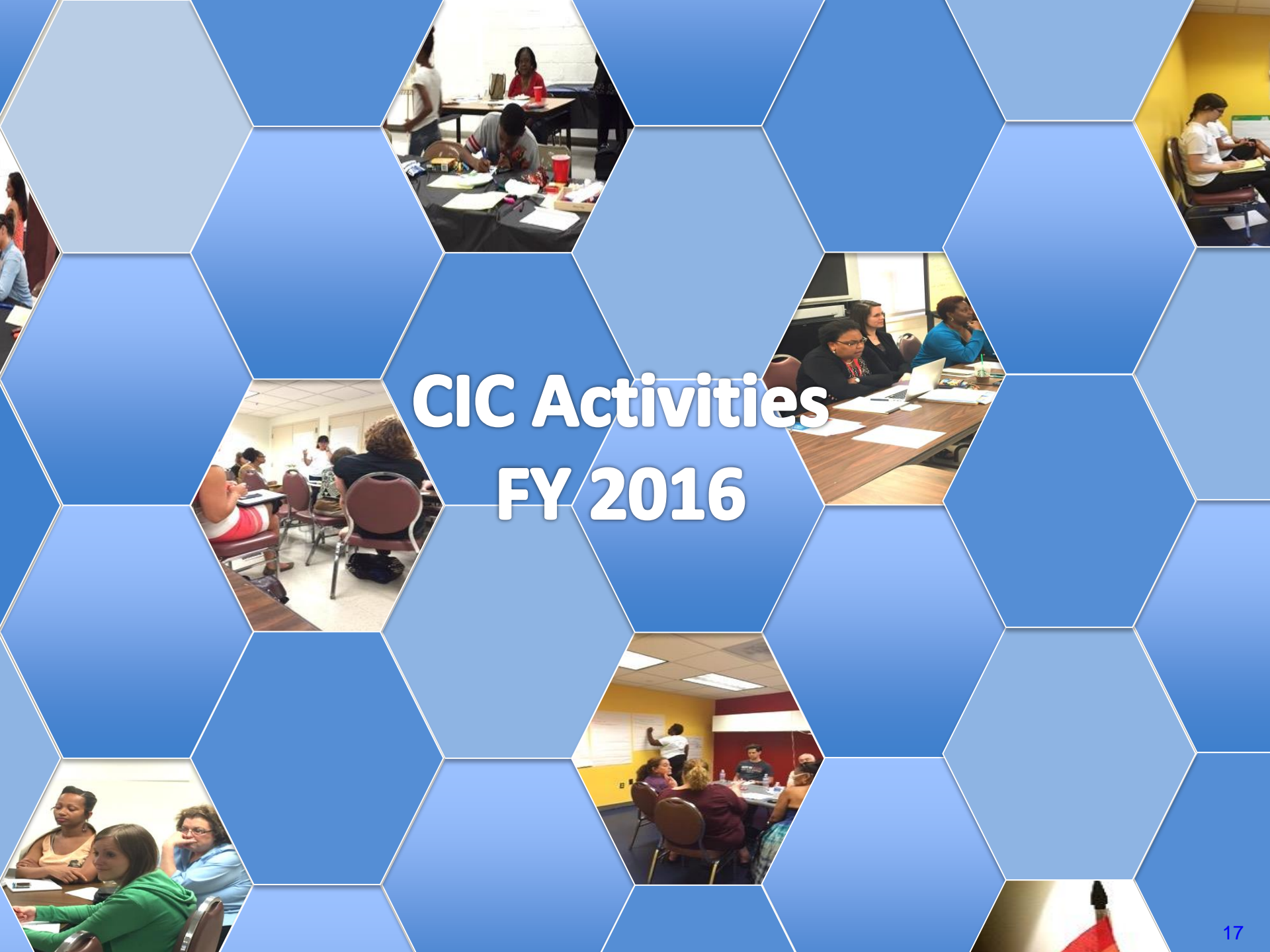
The CIC inspected BOP facilities since the Executive Order was issued, but, by the end of FY 2016, had yet to see significant change in out-of-cell time. The BOP Program Statement modifying the Special Management Unit was later issued in August 2016. The DOC changed its policies with regards to juveniles charged as adults, consistent with the federal ban.

Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing

In FY 2016, CIC staff met with two deaf incarcerated DC men in BOP facilities and two deaf/hard-of-hearing persons at CTF. The CIC hired American Sign Language interpreters who accompanied staff on the one-on-one visits. These visits were conducted to ascertain the challenges and the needs of incarcerated DC deaf/hard-of hearing persons in the District's criminal justice system. An issue brief addressing this topic can be found on CIC's website, cic.dc.gov.



CIC Activities FY 2016

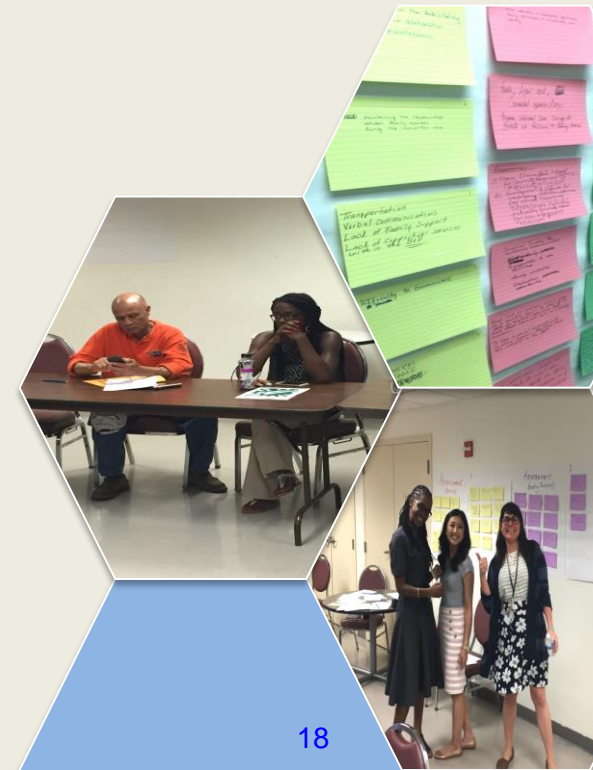


CIC Pop-Up Think Tanks

In FY 2016, the CIC held two events entitled, “Pop-Up Think Tanks.” These Think Tanks were opportunities for community members, criminal justice stakeholders, and decision-makers to bring their experiences and expertise to bear to actively think through issues affecting incarcerated DC residents. These thought exercises went beyond merely discussing issues, but included proposing recommendations to address the issues at hand.

CIC Pop-Up Think Tank: Engaging Families for Successful Reentry, April 26, 2016

This first Pop-Up Think Tank convened 33 family members, formerly incarcerated DC residents, municipal partners, and community leaders to work towards the goal of improving family engagement. Recommendations crossed the spectrum, from increased technological advances and video visitation to increased traditional mail from folks back home in DC.



CIC Pop-Up Think Tank: Reimagining CTF

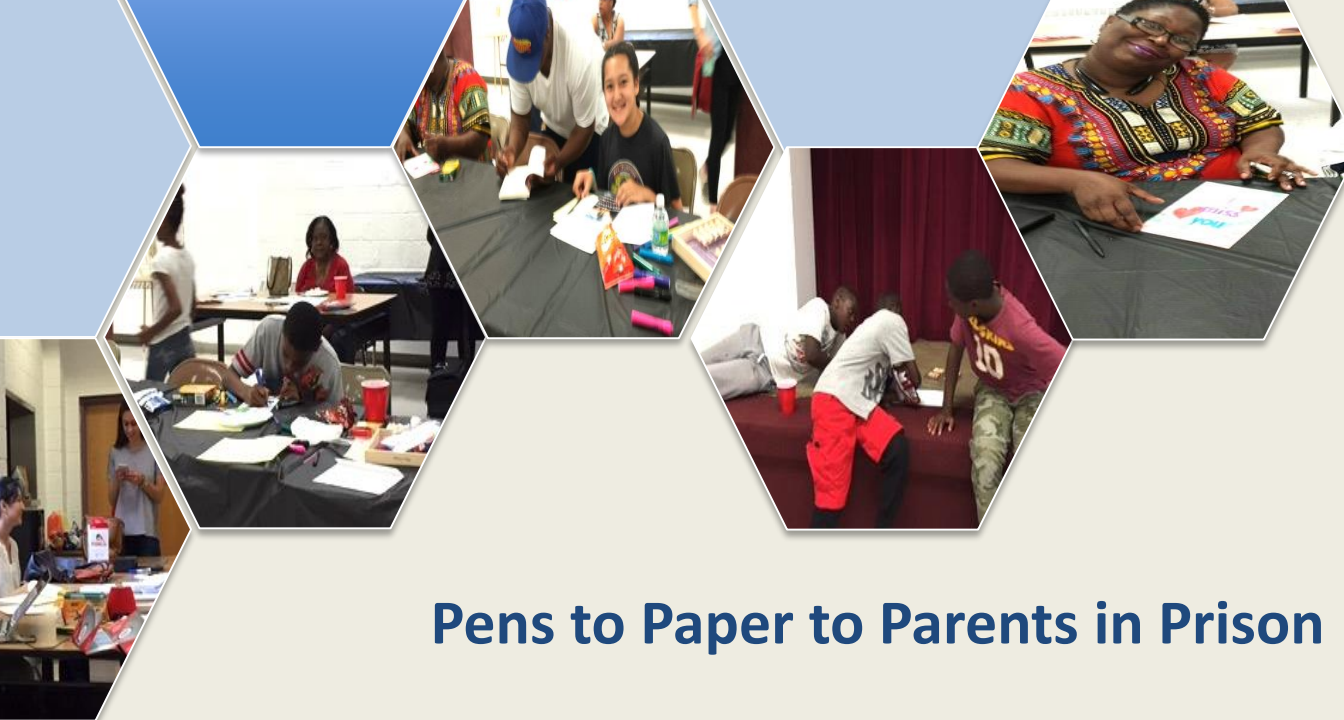
The (CIC) conducted the second of its “Pop-Up Think Tank” series entitled “Reimagining CTF” on July 14, 2016. As the DC Department of Corrections (DOC) approached assuming operations of the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) on February 1, 2017, the Think Tank engaged over 20 loved ones of incarcerated DC residents, community advocates, and interested stakeholders who shared their ideas about inmate composition, programs, and services to be provided at CTF under DOC operations .

Seven key topics emerged as participants discussed a “reimagined” CTF: comprehensive DC reentry services, family engagement, young adults, women, learning and intellectual disabilities, mental health and trauma, and safety.

CIC Pop-Up Think Tanks: Products

The CIC produced reports on each of the two Think Tanks, which were shared with participants, agencies, DC leaders, and the community. The CIC also held a family engagement writing event and continues to work with DC government and agency leaders to encourage use of CTF to provide more services to incarcerated DC residents.





Pens to Paper to Parents in Prison

On Saturday, June 4, 2016, the (CIC) facilitated a family engagement letter-writing party, entitled, “Pens to Paper to Parents in Prison.” The idea for the event was born on April 26, 2016 during the CIC Pop-up Think Tank when family members, local leaders, and formerly incarcerated individuals came together to discuss strategies to increase family engagement with the incarcerated DC residents in Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities across the country. Sixteen families attended the event, eager to share their experiences and insight, and write letters together.

Reliance on Experts to Become Experts

In FY 2016, the CIC became an independent government agency, with increased capacity in the form of a director and two additional program analysts, doubling staff from three to six full-time employees. A newly independent agency with new staff required new training and reliance on experts to propel the CIC to a higher level of productivity and information-sharing.

Strategic Planning

The CIC engaged the expertise of Symphonic Strategies to help the agency create a roadmap to its ultimate goal or “destination” of being the definitive expert on the incarceration of DC residents. This roadmap included three paths - inspections, analytics, and communications – that would lead CIC towards this destination. The planning also involved discussing the proper resources (“fuel”), leadership (“driver”), and partners (“passengers”) that the CIC will need along each path. The CIC continues to use this roadmap in pursuit of its goal of becoming the expert in corrections issues affecting the District and its residents.



Expert Training and Participation

As in years past, the CIC has consulted with experts for training on issues pertinent to incarcerated persons. In FY 2016, CIC staff received training from Talila Lewis, founder of HEARD (Helping Educate to Advance the Rights of the Deaf) and advocate for imprisoned deaf and hard-of-hearing persons. Lewis also accompanied CIC staff on an inspection of USP Tucson, where they witnessed the newly implemented video remote interpreting (VRI) service.



Expert Consultation for Issue Brief

During the summer of 2016, CIC interns conducted research and consulted corrections experts pertaining to experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) incarcerated persons. The CIC consulted George R. Brown, MD, Associate Chair of Psychiatry at East Tennessee State University, who has researched transgender health issues, including healthcare for incarcerated transgender individuals. The Moss Group, Inc., an organization that provides LGBTI training to correctional facilities, also provided helpful information to the CIC in its production of its issue brief, “LGBT+ Persons in Prison.”

CIC Presentations at Other Events

DCACDL Rites of Spring

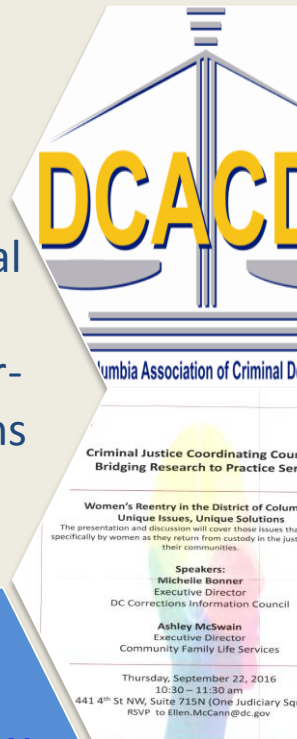
April 30, 2016

Michelle Bonner, CIC Executive Director, presented at the 2016 Rites of Spring Conference of DC Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (DCACDL), on the topic, “Current State of Facilities for DC Code Offenders.” This was an opportunity to educate criminal defense lawyers on where their clients are incarcerated and some of the issues their clients face post-conviction.

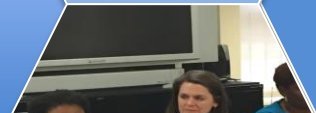
Women’s Reentry in the District of Columbia: Unique Issues, Unique Solutions

September 22, 2016

Director Bonner also participated in a panel discussion, sponsored by Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), that focused on issues facing DC women returning to the community after incarceration. The CIC presented on gender-specific issues related to child custody, trauma, mental health, and corrections programming.



CIC Operations FY 2016



CIC Operations – FY 2016

Corrections Information Council

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Email: dc.cic@dc.gov; Website: cic.dc.gov



CIC Governing Board

Prior to the reestablishment of the CIC in 2012, two previous Boards were appointed in 2002 and 2004. In 2002, the Board was composed of Harold S. Russell (Chair), Chester Hart, and the late Ginny Spevak. In 2004, the Board was composed of Ronald E. Hampton (Chair), Linda Jo Smith, and John D. McDowell. There was no CIC Board appointed between 2005 and 2012.

On June 7, 2012, the CIC was reestablished with three new Board members: Michelle R. Bonner (Chair), Reverend Samuel W. Whittaker, and Katharine A. Huffman. Ms. Bonner's term ended in June 2014, and Rev. Whittaker's term ended in June 2015. Ms. Huffman has remained on the CIC Board, along with Phylisa Carter (nominated in FY 2015, sworn in Dec. 2015-present) and, as of FY 2017, Charles Thornton, Board Chair (Dec. 2016-present).

CIC Staff – FY 2016

For FY 2016, CIC staff consisted of:

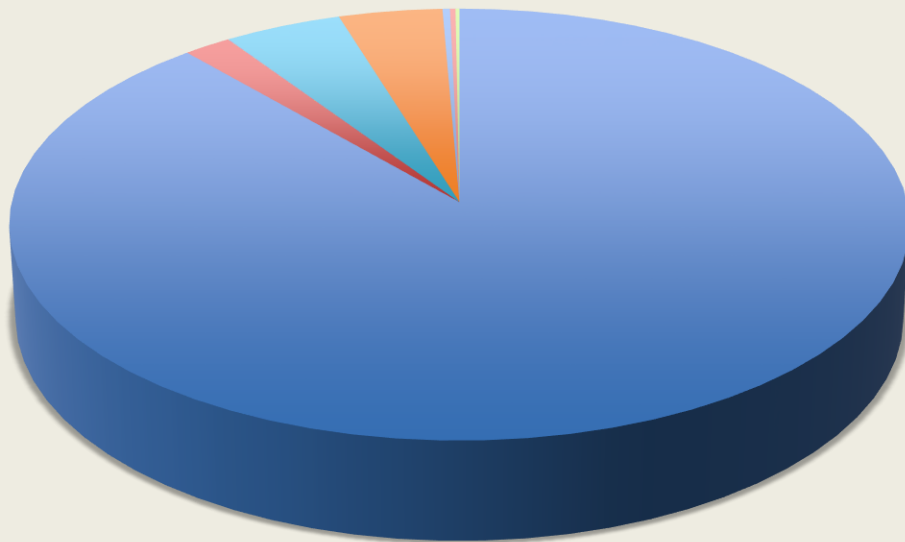
- Michelle Bonner, Executive Director (Nov. 2015-present);
- Cara Compani, Program Analyst (Aug. 2012-Mar. 2016);
- Phillip Mosby, Community Outreach Assistant (Mar. 2015-July 2017);
- Sheila Walker, Clerical Assistant (Nov. 2015-present);
- Tiffany Culley, Program Analyst (Dec. 2016-Dec. 2017);
- Lashonia Thompson-El, Program Analyst (Dec. 2016-Feb. 2017); and
- Laura de las Casas, Program Analyst (Apr. 2016-present).



The CIC also employed the services of legal interns from local area law schools and undergraduate interns from George Washington University and The Washington Center (TWC). These interns participated in research, writing, and local inspections. Legal interns were Sophia Browning, Connor Curtain, Apoorva Deshmukh, and Danielle Berezney. Undergraduate interns were Sheneille Wilson, Sabrina Burns, Kara Ganyer and Acacia Towers.



CIC – FY 2016 Actual Budget



■ Personal Service = \$389,000

■ Office Supplies = \$8,308

■ Telephone = \$29

■ Travel - In town = \$120

■ Travel - Out ofTown = \$20,538

■ Professional Services = \$18,067

■ Office Support = \$1,295

■ Printing/Duplication = \$956

■ Professional Dues= \$695

